REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56, and 82 are pending. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the Claims as follows. Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56, and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 49-51 and 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 14 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0034630 A1 (Mayer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,580 (Takano). Claims 52-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over www.inventors.net retrieved from the Internet Archive Wayback Machine (InoNet) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0249902 (Tadayon). Claims 54-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet in view of Tadayon and further in view of Mayer. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 46, and 48-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet in view of Mayer and further in view of Tadayon. Claim 82 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer in view of InoNet and further in view of Tadayon. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over InoNet, Mayer, and Tadayon and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0047276 A1 (Eisenhart).

In addition to the Office Action, this Amendment is responsive to the interview conducted between the Examiner and Applicants' attorneys', Michael J. Musella and Victor A. Grossman, on May 1, 2006. The courtesy extended by the Examiner to conduct the interview is greatly appreciated. Raised during the interview was Applicants' contention that the specification provides proper support for the recitations of the claims. Although no agreement was reached during the interview, the recitations of the claims were described to the Examiner in light of the nature of the present application. Moreover, the Examiner was informed that the nature of the invention is such that confidentiality levels can be individually tailored and established for individual users depending upon the wishes and needs of the users. In other words, the confidentiality level can be set as desired by the user of the present invention. Thus,

by using an analysis routine such as is described by the present application (e.g., see, heuristic analysis, below), an appropriate confidentiality level can be established using a CPU.

Moreover, although the Specification of the present application gives several examples of confidentiality levels and the inputs and methods which can be used to obtain these confidentiality levels, the confidentiality levels are given to aid the reader's comprehension and to better enable one skilled in the art to practice the present invention.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, of independent Claims 1, 14, 46, 52, and 82, the Examiner states that these claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. First, to support here rejection, the Examiner states "[t]he levels of confidentiality have not been identified" (e.g., see, Office Action, Page 4, bottom). However, on the very same page, the Examiner acknowledges confidentiality levels can include "internal", "confidential", and "top confidential". Moreover, the Specification discloses that the confidentiality level may have other gradations (e.g., see, Specification, Page 28). Thus, it is seen that the confidentiality level is, as its name implies, a level which is used to define an appropriate confidentiality level. One skilled in the art would be able to make and use the invention without undue experimentation.

Regarding the Examiner's assertion that the recitation of determining by the first computing device a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, as recited in Claim 1, has not been described in the Specification sufficiently to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the invention without undue experimentation, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. With reference to the paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 31, a security system having a central processing unit (CPU) to determine an appropriate confidentiality level is disclosed. Furthermore, the specification discloses the appropriate confidentiality level can be determined by the CPU using heuristic analysis. Additionally, with respect to the paragraph beginning at line 11, page 30, a security system 150 is disclosed which can establish a

confidentiality level for the patent proposal by determining the importance of an idea and further discloses that the importance can be determined using factors such as economic gain, level of need, etc. Thus, it is seen that a CPU can use a heuristic analysis of inputs such as the importance of an idea and generate a confidentiality level. Again, one skilled in the art would be able to make and use the invention without undue experimentation.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Specification provides ample support for the recitation of determining by the first computing device a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, as recited in Claim 1, and one skilled in the art would be able to make and use the invention without undue experimentation.

Furthermore, regarding the Examiner's assertion that the recitation of providing by the first computing device a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the proposal for invention, wherein information is provided in the forum according to a level of confidentiality, is unsupported by the specification, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. With reference to the paragraph beginning at line 5, page 36, the Specification discloses that posted information can have different levels of confidentiality so that, for example, project managers could post notes to each other concerning business strategy, without necessarily informing all the members of the co-inventors pool. In other words, the confidentiality levels are used to provide information to the forum according to a level of confidentiality. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the recitation of providing by the first computing device a forum for the pool of co-inventors and the initial inventor to communicate and to further develop the proposal for invention, wherein information is provided in the forum according to a level of confidentiality, as recited in Claim 1, is fully supported in the specification. One skilled in the art would be able to make and use the invention without undue experimentation.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, of Claim 1, and Claims 14, 46, 52, and 82, which contain similar recitations as those

contained in Claim 1, be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claims 49-51 and 54-55 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, Claims 49-51, 54 and 55 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Various methods for collecting a fee for providing a service are well known in the art. It is respectfully submitted that proper support can be found at least at the paragraph beginning at line 10, page 12. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, of Claims 49-51 and 54-55 be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 14, the Examiner states that the combination of Mayer and Takano teach each and every limitation of Claim 14. Upon reviewing the cited reference, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect.

Mayer teaches a method and system for matching candidates to available job positions.

Takano teaches displaying a list of all pieces of the invention report information registered in a specification file management table or only those satisfying a specific condition. In essence, then, Takano teaches a system for conveniently accessing desired information, rather than a security system for preventing unauthorized access to information based upon levels of confidentiality.

In contrast to that which is taught by Mayer or Takano, Claim 14 includes the recitation of a security system structured and arranged for determining a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, for maintaining records regarding confidentiality levels, and authorizing access to secured information, the security system including at least one microprocessor, which is neither taught nor suggested by Mayer or Takano or the combination thereof. Moreover, Takano does not teach or suggest a confidentiality level nor does Takano teach or suggest determining a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, as recited in Claim 14. These deficiencies are not cured by Mayer.

Accordingly, as the combination of Mayer and Takano does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Claim 14, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 14 be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of Claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Claim 52 has been amended and is further distinguished.

InoNet teaches InoNet discloses using inventors (which the Examiner equates with the co-inventors as recited in the claims) for experts and that the names of the experts are not revealed to the client (which the Examiner equates with the initial inventor). In other words, a client submits a problem and InoNet prepares a report for the client.

Tadayon teaches a computerized system in which certain triggering events automatically generate a notification message.

In contrast, amended Claim 52 includes the recitation of the proposal for invention having a confidentiality level determined by the first computing device, and being initially submitted by the initial inventor, which is neither taught nor suggested by either InoNet or Tadayon. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 52 be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claims 1 and 46, the Examiner states that neither InoNet nor Mayer disclose determining a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, and relies upon Tadayon to cure this deficiency. Upon reviewing Tadayon, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect.

InoNet is discussed above with respect to the rejection of Claim 52.

Mayer teaches a method and a system for matching candidates to available job positions in a network environment.

Tadayon teaches a computerized system in which certain triggering events automatically generate a notification message. With reference to the paragraphs cited by the Examiner to support the rejection of Claims 1 and 46, these paragraphs merely teach determining access rights of a particular user. Tadayon further teaches that these access rights are (1) read, (2) write, and (3) read write (e.g., see, paragraph 114). In contrast, Claims 1 and 46 each include the recitation of determining by the first computing device a confidentiality level for the proposal for invention, respectively, which is neither taught nor suggested by Tadayon. Moreover, this deficiency is not cured by InoNet or Mayer. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 1 and 46 be withdrawn.

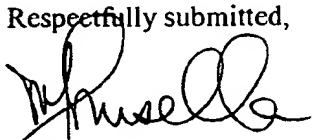
Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 82, this claim includes similar recitations as contained in Claims 1 and 46 and is be allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51, and 53-56, are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective independent claims.

Independent Claims 1, 14, 46, 52 and 82 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51 and 53-56, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 4-13, 16-23, 48-51 and 53-56 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 4-14, 16-23, 46, 48-56 and 82, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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